

CPYRGHT

Ben Barka Trial Hears Orly Lounge Was Bugged

By JOHN L. HIESS

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PARIS, Sept. 23.—A microphone was hidden behind a Picasso in a reception room for distinguished visitors at Orly Airport, it was testified today.

That the V.I.P. rooms at Orly are bugged was divulged by a high French counter-espionage officer who is a defendant in the Ben Barka trial.

The officer, Maj. Marcel Le Roy, alias Finville, is accused of having failed to report knowledge of a crime, the kidnapping of the Moroccan opposition leader, Mehdi Ben Barka, from the Boulevard Saint-Germain last Oct. 29. It is generally assumed here that Mr. Ben Barka was murdered.

For two days, witnesses and lawyers had hammered at Major Le Roy's denial that he knew of the plot. An aide

testified that on the afternoon of Oct. 29 he had indeed received a telephone message to "Thomas" — another of Major Le Roy's code names — from "Don Pedro."

Don Pedro was Antolne Lopez, a defendant who was at the same time an Air France official at Orly, an informer for the French intelligence service and an intimate of French gangsters and Moroccan politicians.

Lopez has testified that he organized the kidnapping for the Moroccan Minister of the Interior, Gen. Mohammed Oufkir, but insists that he did it with the knowledge and approval of his superiors in the intelligence service through Major Le Roy.

An aide of Major Le Roy's testified yesterday, in the face of the major's denial, that he had received the message and passed it on to his chief. The message said

the rendezvous had taken place.

This afternoon, lawyers for Mr. Ben Barka's family—the victim as well as the accused—may be represented in French proceedings—hammered away at Major Le Roy's account of his own doings at the time of the kidnapping.

Major Le Roy had testified that he went to Orly before 10 A.M. and remained until early afternoon to greet his superior, Gen. Paul Jacquier, then head of the S.D.E.C.E., the French equivalent of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

Why, the Ben Barka lawyers demanded, did it take hours to greet the general? Major Le Roy said the general's plane had been late.

General Jacquier, who lost his post in the aftermath of the Ben Barka scandal, testified that as far as he knew the plane had been on schedule.

Major Le Roy replied that there had been a great deal to do when his chief arrived from abroad—arranging for him to pass through customs, and the police check and to meet with his aides.

However, the general denied that he had sought conspicuous special treatment on his arrivals, and Lopez, rising, said that all that ever had been necessary was to tell him, Lopez, that someone was coming and it was all taken care of.

Visibly vexed, Major Le Roy said he had another important duty—to see to it that the room where the chief met his aides was not bugged. It is widely known, he declared, that reception rooms at Orly are bugged.

"Don't you know," he said to General Jaquier, "that there were listening posts in Salon Number 1 at Orly where we were received several times?"

Lopez leaped up and cried, "Yes, and it was I who found it, behind the Picasso picture!"

The chief trial judge, Jean Perez, demanded, "For whose account was this listening service?"

"Not ours, anyhow," Lopez replied.